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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PERUVIAN MAN SENTENCED IN BMV-RELATED CASE

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that RICARDO W. HERRERA, 42, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following his guilty plea to Forgery and False Use of Passports. This case was the result of a joint investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Safe Streets Task Force, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Postal Inspectors.

HERRERA was arrested in November 2003 as a result of an ongoing federal investigation of persons who are trafficking in forged immigration documents that are being presented at branches of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The forged immigration documents were used by illegal aliens to unlawfully acquire Indiana driver's licenses and identification

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cards. HERRERA pleaded guilty to forging and falsifying five passports with a counterfeit I-551 stamp. An I-551 stamp in a passport is temporary evidence that an alien has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in this country and, at a later time, will be provided an I-551 card, commonly known as a green card or permanent resident alien card. At sentencing, HERRERA admitted that while he began as a translator and interpreter at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for non-English speaking Hispanics, he soon shifted into providing test answers to members of the Hispanic community and then into providing fraudulent documents for illegal aliens to use to unlawfully acquire driver's licenses and identification cards.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sharon M. Jackson, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed 3 years supervised release following HERRERA's imprisonment. However, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Jackson, "these offenses are considered aggravated felonies under federal law and HERRERA will face mandatory deportation upon his release from prison."

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